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Vietnam, 48 years after the defeat of US imperialism

On June 6, 1969, the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam (FNL) together with other political and social organizations convened a Congress of representatives of the south that gave rise to the creation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (GRP) which would begin to play a decisive role in the formation of revolutionary power in that area of the country.

National Congress of Deputies

Architect Huynh Tan Phat (center) was elected President of the GRP

El GRP

It must be said that since 1970, the struggle in Laos and Cambodia also occupied by the United States gained new strength, likewise, the patriots of those countries began to coordinate efforts with the FNL for the development of the revolutionary war.

In 1972, the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) ordered the preparation of a strategic offensive that would lead to major military victories, disrupt the imperialist strategy of "Vietnamization of war" and force the United States to resort to negotiation.

However, faced with the military successes of Vietnam, Washington, already under the government of Richard Nixon, ordered to increase its troops by mobilizing a large naval air force in order to reinforce the aggression against the South and unleash what was called

the second war of aggression against the North. At the same time, the president of the United States was forced to take a surprising turn due to the proximity of the November 1972 elections, his re-election and the growing rejection of the Vietnam War in public opinion in the United States. Evidently, he was trying to obtain military successes that would allow him to negotiate from positions of strength in Paris.

However, failing to achieve the objectives he had set for himself in the field of war and in the face of the brilliant proposals of Vietnamese diplomacy that obtained great support throughout the world and in particular in the public opinion of the United States, Nixon was forced to accept the Vietnamese proposals in order to gain time for his troops while strengthening the puppet army. But once elected, Nixon openly rejected the agreements he had signed, unleashing genocidal bombings against major Vietnamese cities.

The hellish U.S. air assault on Hanoi and Haiphong was successfully repulsed by Vietnam's armed forces, forcing Nixon to sign the Paris Accords on the cessation of war and the restoration of peace in Vietnam on January 27, 1973.

The Paris accords meant that the United States had to withdraw its troops and that of its satellites and respect Vietnam's independence. It should also cease its intervention in the country's internal affairs and recognize the people's right to self-determination and the status quo of South Vietnam. In this way, Vietnam achieved another great victory against a foreign power that, however, had not yet been fully consummated.

Although the Paris Accords marked an important step in the process of liberating Vietnam, US imperialism continued to support the puppet regime in Saigon (now led by Nguyen Van Thieu). He intended to keep his colonial rule and the country divided. But Washington misdiagnosed the situation, thinking that the agreements had paralyzed the liberating impetus of the Vietnamese people. On the contrary, the prestige of FNL and GRP was increasing every day both domestically and internationally.

Para que se tenga una idea de la magnitud de la intervención militar de Estados Unidos en Vietnam, el poder de fuego de sus soldados era seis veces mayor al que poseían durante la segunda guerra mundial. Estados Unidos gastó 400 mil dólares por cada vietnamita muerto incluyendo 75 bombas y 150 proyectiles de artillería por cadáver.

El régimen de Van Thieu se tuvo que comenzar a enfrentar no sólo al poder y la fuerza revolucionaria de las zonas liberadas, también a una resistencia popular creciente en las áreas bajo su control. Además de eso, la ayuda de Washington se había reducido notablemente respecto de años anteriores. De la misma manera, se desató una profunda

crisis económica a partir del segundo semestre de 1973 que se agudizó al año siguiente caracterizada por una alta inflación, fuerte devaluación y pérdida de divisas.

En estas condiciones, el GRP y el FNL respondieron con un incremento de las acciones armadas junto a su decisión de aplicar sin demora los acuerdos de París. Ya en julio de 1973 el PCV evaluó que había que preparar las fuerzas para una ofensiva que permitiera conquistar el poder decisivo. A mediados de 1974, el curso de la guerra había variado ostensiblemente en cuanto al crecimiento de las fuerzas armadas revolucionarias, las acciones ofensivas que se desarrollaban, la consolidación de rutas de abastecimiento logístico del norte al sur y el incremento de las acciones en las ciudades.

Todos estos antecedentes, además de otras condiciones propicias. permitieron que el PCV en octubre de 1974 concluyera que se había creado una correlación de fuerzas favorable a los revolucionarios por lo que tomó la decisión histórica de movilizar al partido, al ejército y al pueblo para llevar adelante un ataque general que condujera a aniquilar y destrozar las tropas del régimen de Van Thieu, derrocar el poder enemigo tanto a nivel regional como nacional, conquistar el poder para el pueblo y liberar el sur. El PCV y su comisión militar central se dieron a la tarea de planificar y organizar los futuros combates.

La ofensiva y el levantamiento general comenzó el 10 de marzo de 1975 en la meseta occidental del país. Los primeros éxitos permitieron avanzar hacia la llanura costera del centro. Un momento decisivo fue la campaña en Hue-Da Nang, segunda ciudad de importancia de Vietnam del Sur donde se aniquiló la base militar más poderosa de las fuerzas armadas del régimen pro yanki. La ofensiva continuó con la realización de ataques y levantamientos al norte y noroeste de Saigón. El 25 de marzo ya se habían liberado 16 provincias con lo cual el FNL controlaba las tres cuartas partes del territorio y la mitad de la población de Vietnam del Sur. Se evaluó que el colapso del ejército enemigo era total y que Estados Unidos se mostraba impotente ante la fuerte ofensiva vietnamita. Se habían creado las condiciones para la batalla final: la batalla por Saigón.

Who loves Uncle Ho Chi Minh more than young people? Vietnamese folk art, XXI century

The battle for the liberation of Saigon was called the "Ho Chi Minh Campaign". The president and founder of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam had passed away on the day the country commemorated the 24th. Anniversary of its independence on September 2, 1969. It had been decided that the last city to be liberated would bear his name.

Colossal military groupings were mobilized to reinforce those already in the combat zone. Meanwhile, the enemy was preparing to resist in its last remaining bastion at the same time that the United States unleashed all kinds of diplomatic maneuvers to avoid or delay the obvious end of events. On April 18, U.S. President Gerald Ford ordered the urgent evacuation of all Americans from Vietnam. On April 21 amid his attempts to salvage the situation, Washington dismissed Van Thieu as he sought a negotiation leading to a bilateral ceasefire.

But it was too late. On April 26, the "Ho Chi Minh Campaign" began, a five-way plan of attack coordinated with the local armed forces and the insurrectionary people. On April 28

and 29 the revolutionary columns advanced impetuously, encircling the enemy forces on the perimeter of Saigon.

The first Vietnamese tank enters the headquarters of the puppet presidential palace

La fuga de Saigon por los techos de la embajada usamericana. Foto Hubert Van Es

Las columnas de ataque ocuparon los objetivos más importantes de la ciudad y a las 11:30 del día 30 de abril, en medio de la estampida del gobierno y los miembros de la embajada de Estados Unidos, la bandera de la revolución fue izada en el palacio de gobierno. El 1° de mayo todo el territorio continental de Vietnam del Sur estaba controlado. En la

campaña, fueron aniquilados 400 mil soldados enemigos desintegrando un ejército de más de un millón de efectivos, así como a las fuerzas de seguridad y policía.

Platillo o posavasos- Arte popular vietnamita Siglo XXI

The end of the "Ho Chi Minh Campaign" and the total liberation of Vietnam that we commemorate today on its 48th anniversary was a brilliant military operation by the Vietnamese armed forces and people under the leadership of the Communist Party. US imperialism had been defeated in what has been characterized as the greatest military and political disaster in its history. Likewise, the entire military, political and administrative apparatus of the regime created by Washington in Vietnam was destroyed. Five U.S. administrations made a colossal effort to prevent the victory of the Vietnamese people and failed, culminating twenty years of glorious struggle against U.S. aggression and for the reunification of the country.

The Americans have left Saigon: US GO Homme: It's done

Departure of the last American helicopter from Saigon in the early morning of April 30, 1975. Super8 film taken from the hospital of Grall by Dr. Bourdais, resuscitator.

Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein for La Pluma, April 27, 2023

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